

Message Text

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TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

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TAGS: US, PINT, PARM, XG

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

GENEVA FOR CSCE

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. RECENT PAPERS CONTINUE EMPHASIZE DOMESTIC
NEWS; FRIDAY NYTIMES FRONTPAGED SCHLESINGER SAYS CAMBODIA
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CASE NOT HOPELESS; SATURDAY BALTSUN FRONTPAGED TURKS

EMBITTERED BY US ARMS CUT. SUNDAY PAPERS FEATURED KISSINGER SOFTENS CUBA POLICY; MONDAY BALTSUN FRONTPAGES FRANCE ASKS 10 NATIONS TO OIL MEETING. COMMENT SCATTERED; WASHPOST EDITORIAL ON CSCE.

1A. FRIDAY WASHPOST INSIDE REPORTED SOVIETS SUGGEST NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE. SATURDAY WASHINGTON PAPERS REPORTED SOVIET SHIPS NEAR CUBA. SUNDAY WASHPOST REPORTED MOSCOW RECOVERING FROM TRADE ACT CHILL; BALTSUN REPORTED US UNDERGROUND TEST EXPLOSION; BALTSUN TREWHITT HAD REVIEW PIECE, ALMOST ANYONE CAN MAKE AN ATOMIC BOMB. MONDAY WASHPOST INSIDE HAS NEW YORK ITEM SAYING PHYSICIAN ACCOMPANYING HAROLD WILSON CONCLUDED BREZHNEV HAS BEEN RECEIVING RADIATION THERAPY ON CHIN.

2. ATOMIC TEST. SUNDAY BALTSUN HAD MERCURY, NEVADA AP SAYING TEST EQUIVALENT TO 200,000 TONS OF TNT SWAYED

BUILDINGS 90 MILES AWAY IN LAS VEGAS IN FIRST ANNOUNCED US TEST UNDERGROUND THIS YEAR, ERDA SPOKESMAN SAYING NO RADIATION ESCAPED.

3. SOVIET UNION. FRIDAY WASHPOST HAD MOSCOW AGENCY FRANCE PRESS REPORTING MOSCOW JOURNAL FAVORABLE TO A DENUCLEARIZED ZONE IN NORTHERN EUROPE, TASS NOTING FINLAND SWEDEN BELONGED TO NO MILITARY BLOC AND DENMARK NORWAY REFUSED TO FLOW NUCLEAR ARMS ON THEIR SOIL, SO SCANDINAVIA SHOULD JOIN WORLD'S NUCLEAR POWERS IN CREATING NON-NUCLEAR ZONE.

3A. SATURDAY WASHSTAR HAD BRIEF AP REPORTING PENTAGON SAID TWO SOVIET GUIDED-MISSILE DESTROYERS HAVE ARRIVED IN CUBAN WATERS ON 13TH VISIT BY A NAVAL TASK FORCE SINCE 1969. WASHPOST SIMILAR.

3B. SUNDAY WASHPOST OSNOS MOSCOW REPORTED THAT A CHEERFUL HEADLINE OVER A LONG ARTICLE IN PRAVDA THIS WEEK ABOUT JOINT SPACE MISSION STRESSED ITS OPTIMISM WITH AN EXCLAMATION POINT, OSNOS SAYING PRAVDA IS BACK SAFELY ON THE SIDE OF IMPROVED SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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SOVIET CRITICISM OF AMERICA WHICH PEAKED IN MID-JANUARY IS SUBSIDING. ACCORDING OSNOS, SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS WHO MET WITH BREZHNEV AND SENIOR SOVIET SPECIALISTS HAVE AGREED IN RECENT INTERVIEWS THAT THE SETBACK IN US-SOVIET TIES HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CONTAINED AND KREMLIN DECISION TO REJECT TRADE PACT HAS NOT LED TO PROLONGED CHILL; INDEED SOME SOVIETS REASON THE EXPERIENCE WAS BENEFICIAL AS CONGRESS LEARNED CONSEQUENCES OF PRESSURING TOO HARD

AND KREMLIN LEARNED LIMITATIONS ON AMERICAN EXECUTIVE AGREEMENTS. NEGOTIATIONS NOW PROCEEDING AT ABOUT SAME PACE AS LAST FALL, SAID OSNOS, CITING SALT TWO, MOSCOW TEST TALKS, AND TECHNICAL-LEVEL US ECONOMIC DELEGATION IN MOSCOW, BUT ADDING PICTURE IS NOT ALTOGETHER BRIGHT IN VIEW OF DIFFERENCES OVER A MIDEAST SETTLEMENT, COMPLEXITIES OF SALT, AND PROSPECT OF STEPPED-UP AID IN INDOCHINA. OSNOS SAID BREZHNEV IS STILL WORKING A REDUCED SCHEDULE, ACCORDING TO AMERICAN SOURCES, AND NET EFFECT OF THE HIATUS APPEARS TO BE WIDESPREAD NOTION THAT SOONER, RATHER THAN MUCH LATER, BREZHNEV WILL STEP DOWN, PERHAPS AFTER NEXT YEAR'S PARTY CONGRESS.

4. CSCE. SUNDAY WASHPOST HAD EDITORIAL ON "UNHAPPY" CSCE CONFERENCE, STILL QUOTE PLODDING ALONG IN HELSINKI UNQUOTE, SAYING PROSPECTS OF WORTHWHILE BARGAINING BETWEEN US-EUROPEAN BLOC AND SOVIETS HAVE GONE DOWNHILL SINCE CONFERENCE CONVENED WITH MIDEAST WAR WIDENING GAP BETWEEN

US AND ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES AND OIL PRICE INCREASES DAMAGING EUROPEAN STRENGTH AND STABILITY. RUSSIANS SEEM PREPARED TO MAKE ONLY MINOR CONCESSIONS IN AREAS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND EXCHANGES AND MINIMAL AGREEMENTS TOWARD MILITARY "CONFIDENCE BUILDING" MEASURES. CALLING CSCE A "CHARADE" AND SAYING IT "MAY END UP RATIFYING A CONDITION OF DIMINISHED EUROPEAN SOCIETY, WITHOUT ENHANCING EUROPEAN COOPERATION", EDITORIAL SUGGESTS THAT GIVEN LACK OF WORTHWHILE DEVELOPMENTS HELSINKI SUMMIT IS NOT WORTHY OF FORD'S PERSONAL PARTICIPATION. EDITORIAL APPROVED KISSINGER'S HINT OF DISENCHANTMENT AT LAST NEWS CONFERENCE AND EXPRESSED RELIEF THAT MBFR TALKS ARE NOT LINKED TO OUTCOME OF HELSINKI CONFERENCE, BUT ARE TAKING PLACE IN VIENNA FORUM WHERE US HAS AN INFLUENCE MORE
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CLOSELY PROPORTIONATE TO ITS INTEREST. KISSINGER

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